

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. The reply filed on 03/24/2009 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):
2. The applicant response does not contain the election of one of the Species required in the previous Office Action (presented below). See 37 CFR 1.111.
3. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be bona fide, applicant is given ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).
4. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Species I

IA: irradiating device includes a laser beam source ([0017]).

IB: irradiating device includes a UV source ([0018]).

Species II

IIA: removal device provided with tacky surfaces ([0019]).

IIB: removal device provided with stripping bristles ([0020]).

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species (one of Specie I and one of Specie II) to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

5. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Specie IA (claims 26 and 34).

Specie IB (claims 27 and 35).

Specie IIA (claim 28).

Specie IIB (claim 29).

The following claims are generic: 19-25, 30-33, 36 and 37.

6. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical feature of Specie IA is irradiating device with laser beam source and it is not present in Specie IB. The special technical feature of Species IB is UV source and it

is not present in Specie IA. The special technical feature of Specie IIA is a removal device with a tacky surfaces and it is not present in Specie IIB. The special technical feature of Species IIB is removal device with stripping bristles and it is not present in Specie IIA.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JULIA SLUTSKER whose telephone number is

(571)270-3849. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keisha Rose can be reached on (571)-272-1844. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JS
May 4, 2009

/Asok K. Sarkar/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2891
May 8, 2009